

**SUMMARY OF THE 1998 IRRIGATION SEASON
FOR THE HEBER AND KAMAS VALLEYS**

The winter of 1997-1998 was fairly mild on the Provo River Water Shed. There were some good storms. Rain in the valleys, and snow in the mountains during the spring months have kept the precipitation above normal for the Water Shed.

The runoff of snow melt was fairly normal for the months of April, May, and June. However, a snowstorm on the night of June 16th, put a reported three feet of new snow at Trial Lake. We have had some good rains every month of the irrigation season, which has resulted in the natural flow of the river holding up throughout the entire season.

In the Heber and Kamas Valleys we have had 100% of the first class water rights, and also some secondary water during the entire irrigation season. The Jordanelle Reservoir has been a big help in the distribution of water to the upper valleys.

The 1998 irrigation season has been by far the best irrigation season in the 38 years I have worked on the Provo River. I have enjoyed the cooperation of all parties concerned with the waters of the Provo River during 1998.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherman A. Giles".

Sherman A. Giles
Deputy Commissioner - Provo River

Provo River Summary 1998

This water year on the Provo River proved to be challenging in different ways than past years. There was more water than required to meet the needs through out the full season. However, other activities such as the Wasatch County Water Efficiency Project and the Provo River Restoration Project took considerable time.

The Efficiency Project will require new diversion dams and intake structures for the Timpanogos and Wasatch diversions. Design plans for the Wasatch diversion have had to be modified and are not completed yet. Further study on them will be required.

This project will also require adaptation in the water accounting system to handle the water that will be delivered to Utah Valley in place of return flows that have historically come from Heber Valley. Considerable work has been done on this but much more will be needed. Also, a plan remains to be made to address change applications made on some of the Heber canals under the Efficiency Project.

The Restoration Project is still in the design phase. It calls for major channel changes on the river through the Heber Valley and has some effect on the Efficiency Project.

Efforts have been made to improve measuring devices when such were found to be defective. As part of the Efficiency Project, new devices will be installed on the Timpanogos, Wasatch and North Fields Canals. In addition, I have been promised that the weir on the Midway River Ditch will be replaced with a ramp flume, hopefully this spring. Several small measuring devices in the Lake Creek and Center Creek systems will need attention in the near future.

Steps have been taken to improve the way in which exchanges for wells are handled. The State Engineer's Office has agreed to supply additional information to help facilitate this. Well owners that do not keep their exchange active will have their well right terminated.

Change applications continue to increase in numbers. Most of these are from canals where farm land has been taken out of production. In reviewing these, it appears that some kind of annual review is in order with those canal companies where these changes occur. Note that change applications are now advertised in the newspaper for the area where the water is to be used. This may be a different paper from the one in the area where the water was formerly used.

The irrigation season in Utah Valley began on April 23rd. However, use of the Murdock Canal was delayed approximately one month. This delay was due to a slide in the Pleasant Grove area and required extensive repair work.

Extra allotment for users of Deep Creek water was available from May 30th until July 13th and secondary rights were filled throughout the season. This is the first time I have seen this happen. A new deputy commissioner, Fred Gummow, was hired to help in the lower Provo area.

Big Elk Reservoir was left open last fall and this summer it was stabilized. Replacement deliveries for Big Elk ^{were} ~~was~~ made by Central Utah Water Conservancy District from their reservoirs at head of the river.